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Letter dated 28 April 2017 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

Pursuant to Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), I have the honour to transmit a letter dated 24 April 2017 from the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Jens Stoltenberg, transmitting the report on the international security presence in Kosovo, covering the period from 1 January to 31 March 2017 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) António **Guterres**

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Annex

In accordance with paragraph 20 of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), I hereby attach a quarterly report on Kosovo Force operations covering the period from 1 January to 31 March 2017 (see enclosure). I would appreciate your making the report available to the members of the Council.

(*Signed*) Jens **Stoltenberg**

Enclosure

Report to the United Nations on Kosovo Force operations

1. The present report on the Kosovo Force (KFOR) is submitted in accordance with Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) and covers the period from 1 January to 31 March 2017.

2. As at 31 March 2017, the total number of KFOR troops in theatre was 4,300. During the reporting period, there were no major security incidents.

Security situation update and operations

3. During the reporting period, there were no major changes to the overall security situation in Kosovo, which remained stable. KFOR continued to monitor the situation on the ground. Serbia and Kosovo remain committed to the European Union-facilitated dialogue. One high-level meeting was held under this dialogue framework, on 1 February 2017.

4. On 5 March 2017, Hashim Thaçi announced that he would transform the Kosovo Security Force into the Kosovo Armed Force through a change to the relevant legislation. Following a strong reaction by the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) on 8 March, and bilaterally by many allies, Mr. Thaçi reconsidered his position and announced on 30 March that the transformation would take place through a constitutional amendment.

5. KFOR continued to work in close cooperation and coordination with the Kosovo Police and the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX).

6. As part of its efforts to maintain an effective force posture in all sensitive areas, and respond immediately if required, KFOR conducted normal framework operations across the area of operations. There was no requirement for direct intervention by KFOR. On 29 March 2017, however, in view of the presidential elections to be held in Serbia on 2 April, the Head of Mission of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe requested support from KFOR. Within the given mandate, KFOR provided support in contributing to maintaining a safe and secure environment and freedom of movement.

7. The NATO Secretary-General and the NATO Supreme Allied Commander Europe both visited KFOR during the reporting period, on 3 and 21 February 2017, respectively.

Summary

8. KFOR continued to fulfil its mandate under Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) to maintain a safe and secure environment and freedom of movement as part of a comprehensive international effort. The close coordination between KFOR (in its capacity as third security responder), EULEX and the Kosovo Police continued to be highly effective.